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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #01959-84
27 March 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: David D. Gries *W*
National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics

SUBJECT: Your Attendance at a Wednesday Meeting of the
Executive Board of the National Narcotics Border
Interdiction System, (NNBIS)

1. Normally, DDCI or I attend Executive Board meetings. On this occasion, they specifically asked for you. This suggests that the Vice President wants Cabinet officers to hear his request for more support for NNBIS, though the only issue currently on the agenda is a dispute between Customs and others over who has responsibility for aerial surveillance--for interdiction purposes--of US borders. The Vice President backs Customs. Others in attendance will probably include Bud Mullen, administrator of DEA; Judge Webster of the FBI; Attorney General Smith; Customs Commissioner Von Raab; Admiral James S. Gracey, Commandant, US Coast Guard; Secretary Regan; senior officials from DOD and perhaps the services; Admiral Murphy and staff members from the Vice President's Office. The Vice President will chair.

2. The Executive Board manages NNBIS under the direction of the Vice President. The Board meets every few months to hear progress reports from NNBIS regional directors and to receive a pat on the back, push, or kick in the pants from Murphy, as the case may be. Under the Executive Board is a Coordinating Board, which meets irregularly at my level to consider nuts and bolts problems. Although everyone who sits in on Executive Board and Coordinating Board meetings supports the NNBIS concept, some of the agencies, fight it at the working level. The Intelligence Community has tried to be as supportive as possible without running afoul of the provisions of Executive Order 12333 that prevent direct involvement in active law enforcement cases. At Annex A are memos on past meetings.

FBI, DOJ & DEA
Reviews Completed

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3. The Vice President's Office is not entirely satisfied with the performance of the Intelligence Community. Murphy seems to believe that we hold the key to border interdiction. If only we would analyze all the intelligence properly, we could provide NNBIS with information about ships and planes that are bringing narcotics to our shores. This runs up against CIA's longstanding policy decision to collect and analyze strategic narcotics intelligence, while leaving the tactical field to DEA and other law enforcement organizations. NNBIS needs more tactical intelligence and analysis, but it has only a limited need for our strategic product.

4. Last month Murphy wrote the DDCI a letter asking that CIA second a CIA officer to his office who could act as intelligence coordinator for the NNBIS Centers. In the past CIA has declined on Executive Order grounds to second CIA officers to the individual centers; in response to this new request for an officer for the Washington staff of NNBIS, the DDCI has asked [redacted] to make a study of operational and legal problems and recommend a solution to him. [redacted] is proposing that CIA send Murphy an officer with DDO LA Division experience or DDI OGI/Strategic Narcotics Branch experience. At Annex B is Murphy's letter and a draft of [redacted] reply.

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6. Murphy also asked CIA to provide training to the intelligence components of the six NNBIS Centers. This has been done, but with a somewhat different result than expected. Our training team--two senior annuitants, one from the DDO and one from the DDI--found that there was no audience for training. The Centers received such a small amount of tactical intelligence from the law enforcement community that there was no need to train them up in analytical techniques. Thus the team used its time to study the Centers and write reports on each of them. As I understand it, these have proved valuable to the Vice President's Office. At Annex C are two of these reports.

7. Regarding Executive Order 12333, CIA among members of the Intelligence Community is in a unique position. [redacted]

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[redacted] This leaves CIA in a unique position, and as a consequence we have been uniquely careful not to mingle too closely with law enforcement, especially when a particular narcotics case is moving towards arrest or trial. Most of the members of the Executive Board are unaware of this distinction between CIA's situation and the situation of Community members covered by posse comitatus.

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8. Attached as Annex D is a group of charts prepared for my use at a recent narcotics conference [redacted] They attest in impressive fashion to the rapid, sustained growth of the narcotics effort in the Intelligence Community.

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9. Annex E is an exchange of letters between you and the Vice President from last summer.



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David D. Gries

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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

16 DEC 1983
NIC #9071-83

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH : Charles E. Waterman
Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council
FROM : David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics
SUBJECT : Meeting of the Executive Board of NNBIS

The Vice President chaired the 15 December meeting. Also present were Admiral Murphy, Secretary Regan, Deputy Secretary Thayer, Counselor Derwinski, Asst. Attorney General Jenson, White House Drug Advisor Turner, a representative from the Department of Transportation, and the heads of each of the six regional NNBIS Centers.

Four of the regional heads lamented the absence of national intelligence in the Centers; all noted a shortage of intelligence of all kinds.

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When the Vice President asked whether CIA had solved the problem of transferring narcotics intelligence reports to the Centers, I responded that the problem was internally solved in CIA and approved by CIA's General Counsel, but was held up at Justice, where considerations of pretrial discovery had led to further study. The Vice President asked Lowell Jenson for comments, and Jenson responded that Justice remained concerned about protecting sources and methods -- I thought that was our job -- but hoped for a solution soon. After the meeting I asked Jenson if Justice could set a deadline for rendering an opinion, and he agreed to January 15.

Comment: Although we cannot minimize the risks that discovery motions pose to sources and methods protection, the very reports we would like to pass to the NNBIS Centers in sanitized form are already being passed to each of the parent agencies of NNBIS in unsanitized form. These agencies include law enforcement organizations like Customs, DEA, Coast Guard, and the FBI. Thus, our reports have always been at risk regarding discovery motions. It seems to me that Justice is treating an old problem -- and one that can never be completely solved -- as if it were something new and threatening. Stan Sporkin apparently has a similar opinion.

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I think it would be useful if you and I made an appointment to explain our situation in detail to Murphy and his people. The following points could be made:

- As soon as Justice renders an opinion, CIA will have a legal basis for sending reports to NNBIS.
- We must then find an electrical, enciphered channel for doing so. Possibilities under examination include Coast Guard circuits and a circuit through the White House Situation Room.
- Nonetheless, there are fewer relevant reports produced than the Vice President's office may believe. A survey of October and November CIA production turned up an average of tactical reports monthly of certain use to the Centers, and about strategic reports monthly of moderate to marginal use to the Centers. Murphy wants them all.
- CIA has sound legal reasons for not assigning staff personnel to the Centers. Our legal counsel has reviewed this issue several times and finds that personnel assigned to the Centers could not remain separate from ongoing law enforcement cases to the extent required by Executive Order 12333.
- Nor should CIA staff personnel be assigned to the NNBIS coordinating staff in the Vice President's office. The General Counsel has the same objection to this proposal as to assignment of personnel to the Centers. However, CIA annuitants, if under contract to other agencies, perhaps could be transferred to the Vice President's office for this purpose.
- A team of CIA annuitants has visited three of the six Centers to give reports and intelligence training and help develop procedures for intelligence handling. Before completion this project will encompass all six Centers.
- We should emphasize -- and provide examples -- that the principal contribution of the Intelligence Community to NNBIS and indeed to the total US Government anti-narcotics effort is the production of an increasing quantity of high-quality, strategic analytical intelligence. This product, as reflected in the NID, the PDB, DDI typescripts and other publications, and in national estimates, is gradually drawing a more accurate picture of the narcotics problem and the effectiveness of some of the weapons used to combat it. This picture is more useful than the largely unclassified, seat-of-the-pants picture produced in the past by law enforcement agencies.

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If you agree, I'll try to set something up with Murphy's office for January.

A few other points are worth mentioning. Murphy presented an overview in which he sketched a rosy picture of interagency cooperation and forward movement in NNBIS. Is he unaware of the real attitude towards the Centers of

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most of the agencies? Nevertheless, he continued, there is more cocaine on the streets than when the South Florida Task Force was established (February 1982) and the Centers went into business (June 1983). This probably reflects a glut which in turn has caused the price to drop and the purity to rise.



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David D. Gries

NNBIS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

December 15, 1983

AGENDA

Opening Remarks - Vice President Bush

NNBIS Status - Admiral Murphy

Briefings on Regional Activities - Regional Coordinators

Discussion

Closing Remarks - Vice President Bush

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

NIC #8527-83
30 November 1983

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics

SUBJECT : NNBIS Coordinating Board Meeting

1. Admiral Murphy chaired a Coordinating Board meeting on 22 November. The Executive Board will meet in mid-December.

2. Most agencies reported improved operations in the NNBIS Centers, but concurred in the need for further refinement. The heads of some of the Centers will be invited to Washington to attend the Executive Board meeting in December.

3. The Vice President recently visited the New York Center, and was impressed. By contrast, our CIA annuitants training team has just returned from New York and reported that, although enthusiastic, the Center members did not have a clear understanding of their mission, nor the tools to accomplish stepped-up interdiction.

5. The FBI was concerned that some domestic legal issues had not been addressed, such as search and seizure problems. None of the issues raised appeared to have anything to do with the legal problems the Intelligence Community confronts in narcotics work.

7. FAA and Customs made brief presentations on expanded use of radar and air ops respectively.

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David D. Gries



Executive Registry

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1984

The Honorable John McMahon
Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear John:

As you may be aware, we have been interested for some time in securing a professional intelligence officer from the Intelligence Community to be detailed to our NNBIS Coordinating Staff here in the Vice President's office. We are particularly interested in finding someone with a broad background in the various intelligence collection disciplines, some familiarity with the nature of international narcotics trafficking, sufficient seniority and stature to command weight in inter-agency councils, and an innovative problem solving approach to the work at hand. After much thought, I am convinced that our needs would best be met by the assignment of someone from the Central Intelligence Agency for this purpose. His role in our NNBIS Coordinating Staff would be to pursue specific intelligence-related questions and issues that come to our attention from the NNBIS Regional Centers, to effect liaison and coordination between the national Intelligence Community and the law enforcement intelligence elements on narcotics questions, and to advise me about problem areas that we are encountering with narcotics intelligence and devise solutions for them.

We have been discussing the possibility of such an assignment with your National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics, David Gries, for some time. We also recently had a representative of your General Counsel office, [redacted] visit our staff in the hope that direct observation would assuage any doubts that the NNBIS Coordinating Staff's role is quite remote from operational law enforcement. Since we feel that better intelligence carries the single greatest pay-off in improving our narcotics interdiction efforts, we are eager to have a staff member detailed here to devote full time to this important area. I hope that you will be able to give this request prompt consideration so that we may be able to have a qualified member of the Intelligence Community on duty here in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Murphy
Admiral, USN (Ret.)
Chief of Staff

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18 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: David D. Gries

FROM :

[Redacted]

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SUBJECT : NNBIS New Orleans

1. Following are the impressions of a two-man team who visited the NNBIS Gulf Region from 7 through 14 October 1983 to seek ways of strengthening the Center's intelligence functions.

2. The team members, both with long and varied experience in intelligence but virtually no background in anti-drug law enforcement, had a mission specifically confined to intelligence methods and skills and excluding any involvement in law enforcement. The intelligence functions on which the team was instructed to focus were collation of data, preparation of requirements, performance of trend analysis, and the preparation and dissemination of reports.

3. Findings respecting each are offered below. It is important to note that these are based on the team's briefing by members of the NNBIS Washington community and on short exposure to only one NNBIS regional center that, in some respects, is still in a formative mode. The findings also reflect the team's fundamental belief that NNBIS intelligence operations should avoid duplication of functions best handled individually by member agencies but stress those activities that could most synergistically exploit the inter-agency makeup of NNBIS in accomplishing its mission of border interdiction.

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THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

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June 22, 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

This is to confirm our June 6th National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS) Executive Board meeting. As we discussed, an effective national drug interdiction program can only be achieved through the full coordination and cooperation of all the involved departments and agencies.

In order to accomplish this we have created five additional regional centers which, when combined with the South Florida Task Force, form the basis for the NNBIS. Each center is headed by a Regional Coordinator and a Deputy Coordinator selected from the participating agencies. A small staff working for me under the direction of my Chief of Staff, Admiral Daniel J. Murphy, will coordinate inter-regional efforts and interface with appropriate agency personnel here in Washington and at regional levels. I have attached an outline reviewing this and our June 6th discussions.

I need your full support in all our efforts to staff and make fully functional the NNBIS regional offices. I have attached a chart of initial personnel needs for each region by agency. The host agency for the Regional Coordinator's Operations Information Center (OIC) will need to provide the appropriate physical spaces and equipment.

I also need your continuing support in making available the necessary resources for regional routine and special operations. My staff and the Regional Coordinators will be working closely with your staff to ensure that we make the maximum effective use of all our nation's resources in fighting the almost overwhelming problem of drug importation.

Thank you very much for your help. The task of coordinating national border interdiction of narcotics is enormous and highly challenging. I look forward to working together with you as we further develop and implement a strong and effective strategy.

Sincerely,

George Bush

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

15 July 1983

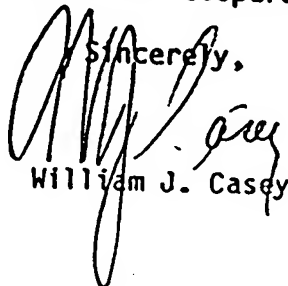
The Vice President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

The Intelligence Community and CIA will do their utmost to supply the foreign intelligence needs of the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS). Based on the results of the Executive Board meeting held on June 6 and on discussions between my staff and your staff, I recommend that this support take the following form:

- First, we would like to survey the intelligence needs of two typical Centers, probably New York and Long Beach, such surveys to be prepared after visits to the Centers by the National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics and a narcotics intelligence analyst.
- Based on these surveys, a written recommendation will be prepared for your staff suggesting how the foreign intelligence that flows into the Centers should be managed, collated, and presented to users.
- CIA would offer to train intelligence personnel from other agencies assigned to the Centers in the management, collation and presentation of available intelligence.

I am also working with other members of the Intelligence Community -- particularly NSA and DIA -- to insure their full cooperation with your efforts. I am convinced that the conventional tools of the foreign intelligence profession -- such as agent reporting from abroad and high quality analysis -- will continue to make a contribution to narcotics interdiction programs. You have my assurance of full cooperation.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

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